

petition must be submitted to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. The filing of a petition does not automatically extend the time for filing a report. A petition will be granted only if the petitioner shows good cause for the extension, and if the extension is consistent with the public interest.

Issued on April 1, 1997.

**Ricardo Martinez,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-8826 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

---

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 040197D]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish in the Aleutian Islands Subarea

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Prohibition of Retention.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting retention of shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Aleutian Islands subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). NMFS is requiring that catches of species in the shortraker/rougheye rockfish group in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the shortraker/rougheye 1997 initial total allowable catch (ITAC) in this area has been reached.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 2, 1997, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(iii), the 1997 ITAC of shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Aleutian Islands subarea was established by the Final 1997

Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI (62 FR 7168, February 18, 1997) as 797 metric tons. The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), determined that the ITAC amount specified for shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Aleutian Islands subarea was necessary as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries and, therefore, NMFS prohibited directed fishing effective February 12, 1997. The closure action was published in the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications document.

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Regional Administrator has determined that the 1997 ITAC for shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Aleutian Islands subarea has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Aleutian Islands subarea be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).

#### Classification

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 2, 1997.

**Bruce Morehead,**

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
[FR Doc. 97-8858 Filed 4-12-97; 2:58 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F